



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee

FROM: Kathleen Conner, Senior Planner, Seattle Parks and Recreation

DATE: November 10, 2011

SUBJECT: Adoption of the 2011 Parks and Recreation RCO Development Plan

Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) is asking the Council to adopt Seattle's Parks and Recreation 2011 Development Plan and to authorize Parks to submit the 2011 Plan to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The adopted plan will make Parks eligible to apply for RCO grants through the year 2017.

In the past few years, Parks has received nearly \$7 million in grant funding to support outdoor recreation projects such as the development of Cal Anderson Park and Lake Union Park, outdoor courts at the Amy Yee Tennis Center, and Roxhill Park ballfield improvements. Total RCO grant funding since the outdoor recreation grant program began in 1966 is approximately \$30 million. These grants have provided significant funds that have helped improve and expand Seattle's outdoor recreation facilities.

DPR has completed comprehensive park and recreation plans since 1988. The last plan, Seattle's Parks and Recreation 2006 Development Plan, was completed in 2006 and will expire in early 2012, as the RCO program requires these plans to be updated every six years. The 2011 Plan is an update of the 2006 Plan. Highlights of the revisions in the 2011 Plan include:

- Population data: Some 2010 Census data and economic data were available and used in the Plan.
- Demand and Needs Analysis: Parks updated the 2006 Open Space Gap Analysis to reflect the land acquisitions over the past five years. Parks also used a 2009 study ("Seattle Parks and Recreation Facilities Planning: Analyzing Seattle-Area Active Recreation and Demographic Trends" [Langworthy and Bryant]) to help identify current demands and needs.
- Goals and Policies were streamlined to better align them with the goals in DPR's 2009 Strategic Action Plan and to make them more manageable. (Please note that these revisions do not result in a new policy direction.)
- The 2011-16 adopted CIP was included as the most current version of the document.

Public outreach and input on the development of the Plan was extensive and combined traditional and new tools, including city-wide public meetings, an online survey, and targeted contact with community organizations that provide services that may have been underrepresented in past Plans. The Board of Park Commissioners held a public hearing on June 9th. Combined, these tools provided a sound basis for identifying needs that clearly reflect the public's priorities. Additional information on the public process and summary of the input is available at <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/publications/developmentplan.htm>

The 2011 Plan is a planning document; it does not commit or obligate the City to fund any specific projects or programs. Individual projects would continue to be subject to Council approval in future CIP budgets. Adoption of the 2011 Plan will ensure that DPR is ready to apply for RCO grant funding in 2012, so that we can continue to leverage City dollars to invest in the parks system and respond to new or changing outdoor recreation facilities demand.

CC: Sara Belz, Council Central Staff
Kathy Nyland, Councilmember Bagshaw's Office